

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SMS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6431
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 21260

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH, PEPR, YU, UR
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL ON SOVIET-YUGOSLAV RELATION

1. YUGOSLAV EMBOFF TOLD US SEPTEMBER 5 THAT
SOVIETS PREVIOUS DAY "POSTPONED" VISIT OF CANDIDATE
POLITBURO MEMBER SOLOMENTSEV (RSFSR PREMIER) WHICH
HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 7 (MOSCOW
19205, NOTAL). ALTHOUGH ARRANGEMENTS HAD ALL
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BEEN MADE, YUGOSLAV EMBASSY WAS TOLD BY SOVIETS
THAT SOLOMENTSEV IS "VERY BUSY" AND WOULD HAVE
TO POSTPONE. YUGOSLAVS BELIEVE POSTPONEMENT IS
PROBABLY RELATED TO SOVIET REACTION TO HUA'S
VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA.

2. YUGOSLAV SOURCE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO OTHER

SOVIET REPERCUSSIONS TO DATE APART FROM CONTINUING PRESS POLEMICS. (PRAVDA SEPTEMBER 5 CARRIES LENGTHY TASS SUMMARY OF "ZERI I POPULLIT" EDITORIAL BLASTING PRC DIPLOMACY IN BALKANS AND BY INDIRECTION ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA.) HE NOTED SOVIET DELEGATION OF REGIONAL PARTY LEADERS (AND TWO CPSU CC MEMBERS) LEFT FOR YUGOSLAVIA DAY OR SO AGO IN EXCHANGE FOR EARLIER VISIT OF YUGOSLAV DELEGATION; THAT CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC TIES APPEAR TO BE UNAFFECTED; AND THAT YUGOSLAV JOURNALISTS IN MOSCOW HAVE NOT ENCOUNTERED ANY SPECIAL PROBLEMS. IN PASSING YUGOSLAV EMBOFF MENTIONED THAT YUGOSLAV CHIEF OF STAFF JUST PASSED THROUGH MOSCOW AIRPORT (WITH UNEVENTFUL HOUR-LONG STOPOVER) ON ROUTE TO NORTH KOREA FOR ANNIVERSARY EVENT THERE, AND WOULD THEN BE GOING TO PEKING FOR THE MILITARY TALKS WHICH TASS EARLIER ALLUDED TO (MOSCOW 20850, NOTAL). YUGOSLAV EMBOFF SCOFFED AT POSSIBILITY THAT ANY MILITARY TRANSACTION WHICH MIGHT POSSIBLY RESULT FROM THESE TALKS COULD REPRESENT A PROBLEM FOR THE SOVIETS.

3. YUGOSLAV DIPLOMAT SAID IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHICH MEMBERS OF SOVIET LEADERSHIP ARE BEHIND CURRENT ANTI-YUGOSLAV POLEMICS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT PONOMAREV SEEMED TO PLAY THE ROLE OF POLITBURO "DUTY OFFICER" IN MOSCOW DURING HUA'S BALKAN CONFIDENTIAL

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TRAVELS, OTHER POLITBURO MEMBERS' CRIMEAN VACATIONS, AND PERHAPS HE IS RESPONSIBLE. IT WAS CLEAR TO THE YUGOSLAV THAT BREZHNEV WANTS CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA, BUT IN SOVIET CLOSED SOCIETY IT IS HARD TO ASSESS HOW THESE DECISIONS ARE MADE AND TO WHAT EXTEND BREZHNEV IS BEING CONSULTED ON THEM. GARRISON

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